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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/303,356	04/29/1999	DAVID W. BACHMANN	AT9-98-955	8249

7590 11/21/2002

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/303,356

Applicant(s)

BACHMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in this office action. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination. This office action is in response to the request for reconsideration filed on 09/09/02.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy (US 6134582).

Re claims 1 and 16, Kennedy discloses a periodically search for tagged entries in the first table during a cleanup process interval, (col. 11, lines 48-col. 12, lines 8); and deleting references to the tagged entries throughout the set of database tables, (col. 3, lines 55-col. 4, lines 20).

Kennedy does not explicitly disclose, "Responsive to a request to delete a directory entry, tagging the directory entry in a first table."

However, Kennedy discloses message entries containing "delete" flags in the database (39) can be deleted from the server (49) after all message retrieval operations are completed. In particular, all message entries marked with a "delete" flag are located in response to walking the message entries in the database (39) and thereafter, are deleted from the server (40), (col. 11, lines 65-col. 12, lines 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to responsive to a request to delete a directory entry, tagging the directory entry in a first table, so the users can send and receive a large number of e-mail messages would like an effective way to process their e-mail without spending a lot of time sorting through their in-box, deleting, filing, forwarding, and responding to their messages.

Re claims 2 and 10, Kennedy further discloses wherein the directory entry is tagged by setting its creation time to a given value, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68)

Re claims 3 and 11, Kennedy further discloses wherein the given value is a null value, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68).

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Re claims 4 and 17, Kennedy further discloses performing a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query, (Col. 13, lines 66-Col. 14, lines 47); and excluding tagged entries from search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, (Col. 21, lines 54-Col. 23, lines 18).

Re claim 5, Kennedy further discloses wherein the step of excluding tagged entries includes modifying an SQL query to exclude rows having null change creation, (Col. 8, lines 51-Col. 9, lines 63).

Re claims 7 and 12, Kennedy further discloses the method as described in claim 1 wherein the first table is an entry table, (Col. 8, lines 51-Col. 9, lines 63).

Re claims 8 and 13, Kennedy further discloses the method as described in claim 7, wherein the set of database tables includes at least one attribute storing information about an attribute, (Col. 8, lines 51-Col. 9, lines 63).

Re claims 9 and 14, Kennedy disclose responsive to a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query, excluding tagged entries from search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, (Col. 13, lines 66-Col. 14, lines 47 and Col. 21, lines 54-Col. 23, lines 8); periodically searching for tagged entries in the first table during a cleanup process interval, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14,

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lines 68); and deleting references to the tagged entries throughout the set of database table, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68).

Kennedy does not explicitly disclose, "Responsive to a request to delete a directory entry, tagging the directory entry in a first table."

However, Kennedy discloses message entries containing "delete" flags in the database (39) can be deleted from the server (49) after all message retrieval operations are completed. In particular, all message entries marked with a "delete" flag are located in response to walking the message entries in the database (39) and thereafter, are deleted from the server (40), (col. 11, lines 65-col. 12, lines 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to responsive to a request to delete a directory entry, tagging the directory entry in a first table, so the users can send and receive a large number of e-mail messages would like an effective way to process their e-mail without spending a lot of time sorting through their in-box, deleting, filing, forwarding, and responding to their messages.

Re claim 19, Kennedy discloses a directory organized as a naming hierarchy having a plurality of entries each represented by a unique identifier, (Col. 9, lines 43-Col. 10, lines 22); a relational database management system having a backing store for storing directory data in a set of database entries, (Col. 8, lines 51-Col. 9, lines 28); means for periodically searching for tagged entries in the first table during a cleanup process interval, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines

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68); means for deleting references to the tagged entries throughout the set of database tables, (Col. 11, lines 48-Col. 12, lines 8 and Col. 13, lines 33-Col. 14, lines 68); and means responsive to a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query for excluding tagged entries from search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, (Col. 13, lines 66-Col. 14, lines 47 and Col. 21, lines 54-Col. 23, lines 8).

Kennedy does not explicitly disclose, "Responsive to a request to delete a directory entry, tagging the directory entry in a first table."

However, Kennedy discloses message entries containing "delete" flags in the database (39) can be deleted from the server (49) after all message retrieval operations are completed. In particular, all message entries marked with a "delete" flag are located in response to walking the message entries in the database (39) and thereafter, are deleted from the server (40), (col. 11, lines 65-col. 12, lines 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to responsive to a request to delete a directory entry, tagging the directory entry in a first table, so the users can send and receive a large number of e-mail messages would like an effective way to process their e-mail without spending a lot of time sorting through their in-box, deleting, filing, forwarding, and responding to their messages.

5. Claims 6, 15, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy (US 6134582) in view of Byrne et al. (US 6347312).

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Re claims 6, 15, 18, and 20, Kennedy does not explicitly disclose, "Wherein the directory is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directory service and the database tables are managed by a relational database management service."

However, Byrne shows wherein the directory is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directory service and the database tables are managed by a relational database management service, (col. 4, lines 18-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Kennedy with the teaching of Byrne, so the LDAP can provide the computer system the capability for directory information to be efficiently queried or updated, and the LDAP also offers the computer system a rich set of searching capabilities with which users can put together complex queries to get desired information from a backing store.



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**Contact Information**

**6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5:00PM.**

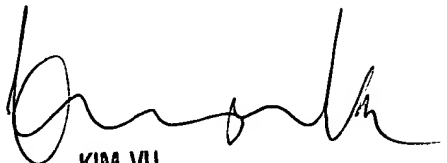
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

**7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.**

TV:tv

11/08/02

  
KIM VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100